

Playing to Stay in School: Girls' Sports Initiative in Jigawa State Brief Report on Progress for Sustainability

Abstract

The Girls Education Initiative (GEI) includes a Girls Sports Initiative in Jigawa state, which aims to contribute to the enrolment, retention, transition and completion of girls in schools. This report documents progress in the sports initiative, as of March 2016. It includes a brief report on the consultant's visit in March 2016 and a summary of progress towards sustainability of the initiative.

Introduction

ESSPIN is working with stakeholders in Jigawa state to support the government's aim of achieving universal access to education for all children. Of particular concern is the huge disparity between boys' and girls' education in the state. The ESSPIN-supported Girls' Education Initiative (GEI) pilot project started in March 2011 in Jigawa state and aims to mitigate this gender disparity through four key strategies:

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Providing essential items like uniforms, books and sanitary materials to girls from poor families to help girls go to school;

.....
Supporting women's committees to counsel and campaign for girls' education;

.....
Sporting activities for girls; and

.....
Media campaigns to change the stereotypes and associated barriers to girls' education

The focus of this report is the provision of sporting activities for girls in schools in Jigawa state

In March 2016, the consultant returned to Jigawa to review progress on recommendations from 2015 and to provide a training workshop for LGEA Sports Desk Officers. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the LGEA desk officers to be able to support schools to offer sports for girls and to develop a sports reporting template to capture girls' sports activities in the schools. Discussions were also held with various stakeholders regarding a mini-sports guide for school teachers.

Sport in schools in Nigeria has declined over the last two decades due to limited investment in sports facilities, equipment and training. However both the National School Health Policy (2006) and the National Sports Policy (2009) stress the importance of investment in sports in education for the health and well being of young people. In 2013 the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) adopted the Jigawa State Schools Sports Policy, which is guiding sports activities in schools in the state. Even more promising is the move by UBEC (Universal Basic Education Commission), in November, 2015, to establish a national Sports Committee to serve as a platform to promote sports development in schools. All SUBEB Executive Chairman have been urged, by UBEC, to include sports in action plans for the utilization of FGN (Federal Government of Nigeria) -UBE intervention funds.

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The overall aims of the consultant's visit were:

To review progress since May 2015 on the sports calendar and advocacy strategy on girls sports

To co-create a sports reporting template with 27 LGEA Sports Desk Officers for use in schools

To discuss a sports mini guide and how this can be utilised sustainably

Meetings were held with ESSPIN staff at national and state level. All activities in Jigawa were carried out with the support of the Access and Equity Specialist Consultant in Jigawa. A two day workshop was held with 27 LGEA Sports Desk Officers (Annex 1: Attendance List). These activities were carried out to develop a reporting template for girls' sports in schools with the LGEA Sports Desk Officers and to build their capacity to promote girls sports in the LGEAs.

Structure of the Report

This report contains three sections:

Section 1 [this Section] provides the background to the Girls' Sports Initiative of the ESSPIN-supported GEI in Jigawa and programme of the consultant's visit

Section 2 documents:

Progress on recommendations from 2015

A brief report on the consultant's visit in March 2016

Section 3 provides a way forward until July 2016

Progress Report

Progress on Recommendations from 2015 Report

Implement the school sports calendar for girls

A meeting had been held by the ESSPIN Access and Equity Specialist in 2015 with all the LGEA Sports Desk Officers in Jigawa state to synergise the SUBEB sports calendar with the sports calendar that had been suggested by the Girls Education Working Group in May 2015. During the meeting the calendars were merged and LGEA Sports Officers agreed to promote girls' sports activities in their LGEAs. In reporting back in March 2016, most LGEAs see girls participating in athletics and fun games and races, such as calabash race, sack race and skipping. Girls practice sports once every two weeks and most schools have a competition against a neighbouring school after the exams near the end of term.

In line with the sports calendar three LGEAs, Miga, Roni and Birniwa organised girls' sports competitions for eight schools in September 2015. Girls took part in track events, calabash running, skipping rope, football, handball, badminton, volleyball, javelin, discus and shot putt. The hosting head teacher in Miga stated the importance of sport for both mind and body and that sport can help girls perform better in class.

In November, 2015, the SUBEB Executive Chairman, received a directive from UBEC to promote school sports in basic education institutions. UBEC has established a Sports Committee to promote sports development in schools and urged all states to do the same. It advised SUBEB to include sports in action plans for utilization of FGN-UBE intervention funds. This is a significant development for building sports for girls and boys in Nigeria and creating access to budgets to implement the School Sports Policy.

Consultancy Programme

Friday 4th March	Meetings with the ESSPIN team in Abuja
Saturday 5th March	Abuja
Sunday 6th March	Travel to Kano
Monday 7th March	Travel to Jigawa, meetings with ESSPIN staff (share M&E template, draft sports mini guide)
Tuesday 8th March	Workshop with 27 LGEA sports desk officers
	Girls sports in schools
	M&E reporting template
Wednesday 9th March	Sports mini guide
	Workshop with 27 LGEA sports desk officers
	Girls sports in schools
Thursday 10th March	M&E reporting template
	Sports mini guide
	Way forward for girls' sports in schools – discussion with key ESSPIN staff and GE working group members
Friday 11th March	Debrief STL, Jigawa
	Travel back to Kano
	Travel from Kano to Abuja
	Debrief meeting ESSPIN Abuja

In 2013, the Jigawa state sports team that travelled for the national finals consisted only of boys. In 2014, after the first meetings between ESSPIN and the SUBEB Sports Coordinator, 39 girls joined the team of 103. In 2015, there are 30 girls in the team of 90 who will travel to Akwa Ibom at the end of March (the finals were postponed from the end of 2015). This has been a significant development for girls' sports in Jigawa. Girls will compete in handball, shot put, javelin, discus, table tennis, lawn tennis, judo and fives at the national finals.

Roll Out the Advocacy Strategy

A comprehensive advocacy strategy was developed with the Girls Education Working Group to enable them to communicate effectively about girls' sports in Jigawa at the State, LGA and community level. The strategy has been partially implemented with action at each level. At the state level the advocacy activities included a delegation from the Girls Education Working Group, with the ESSPIN State Access and Equity Specialist, visiting the SUBEB Chair to present the synergised sports calendar for school sports in Jigawa. The SUBEB Chairman expressed his support for girls' sports activities in Jigawa and approved the revised sports calendar.

A major achievement was the presentation of the Inclusive Education strategy to the Commissioner of Education. The strategy included some key targets and activities, specific to girls' sports. The Commissioner is currently reviewing the strategy.

Two meetings/workshops have been held with LGEA sports desk officers to agree on the calendar for girls' sports in schools, to share the rationale for girls' sports, discuss the benefits and challenges associated with girls' sports in Jigawa and to develop a reporting template for girls' sports. The LGEA Sports Desk Officers will collect information on girls' sports in school over the next two months to provide a clearer picture of the on-going activities in schools in Jigawa.

At the LGEA level ESSPIN and SUBEB organised meetings in Miga, Biriniwa, Roni for discussions with a range of stakeholders. The meeting brought together education secretaries, sports desk officers, gender desk officers, women leaders, SBMC members, parents, girls and boys, amongst others. Girls were given a platform to give their ideas regarding sports and it was made clear what role the LGEA officers can play in promoting sports for girls in schools.

Improved communication and visibility in ESSPIN documents regarding the Girls' Sports Initiative

The next ESSPIN Impact publication includes a front page story titled, "Spicing Up Girls Education with Sporting Activities", prepared by Salisu Koki. This will be an improvement in the visibility of the program within ESSPIN. Two further documents were prepared, a briefing note and case study, for the website. Follow up is needed with Bankole, to ensure these are posted on the ESSPIN website. The rationale for the girls' sports initiative has been shared and discussed with the LGEA Sports Desk Officers in Jigawa. Further work is needed to collect accurate information on sports activities for girls and compelling stories from girls and their families about how participating in sports has positively impacted on their education.

Report on the Consultant's Visit, March 2016

A number of activities were carried out during the consultant's visit in March. In Jigawa the main activity was a two day workshop with the LGEA Sports Desk Officers. The outputs were:

.....
A girls sports reporting template developed, tested, reviewed, and distributed with a channel of reporting established

.....
A better understanding amongst sports desk officers of the rationale for girls sports initiative and the benefits and challenges of girls sports in schools

.....
A clearer picture of girls' sports activities in the LGEAs

.....
A decisions on the appropriate attire to be procured for girls travelling to the national sports finals

Further meetings were held with the Access and Equity Specialist, the Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, the STL of TDP and TDP materials development officer. Meetings were held with the appropriate ESSPIN staff in Abuja at the beginning and end of the visit.

A draft mini sports guide is being developed by the consultant with the Access and Equity Specialist and members of the Girls Education Working Group. The simple guide will be for use by teachers, to give them some ideas and guidance regarding the organisation of sports for girls in primary schools. To make this guide part of the system in place, further discussions will be held with SUBEB regarding training for teachers. Meetings with TDP staff regarding opportunities to include sports in materials being developed for teachers were fruitful in understanding TDP's focus on Maths, English and Science. It would, therefore not be easy to incorporate the sports component into TDP's current work.

The Way Forward

A key output of this consultancy is concise documents that make the case for girls' sports in schools in Jigawa, as a way to contribute to an increase in enrolment, retention, transition and completion of school for girls. The audience for the documents are the Commissioner of Education in Jigawa and potential donors within the state and outside the state.

To develop these documents, the consultant with the team in Jigawa, need to collect more evidence of the impact of the programme, through interviews with girls who participate in sports in Jigawa, and their parents. Further information is being collected by the LGEA Sports Desk Officers which needs to be collated and analysed to be utilised in these documents. On-going communication between the consultant and the Access and Equity Specialist and the Knowledge Management and Communications Officer in Kano/Jigawa will gather this information.

The draft mini sports guide will be developed over the next few weeks and will be shared with the Girls Education Working Group for their input so that the guide is co-created and relevant for Jigawa. Further discussions will be held with the Sports Coordinator, SUBEB, regarding budget for distribution and training of teachers on the sports guide.

A visit by the consultant needs to be scheduled for mid May. This visit will include a meeting with the LGEA Sports Desk Officers to share the information they have collected on girls sports activities in schools in Jigawa. It will also provide an opportunity to share the mini sports guide, and prepare a plan for distribution and training under SUBEB's budgets.

Annexes

Attendance List for LGEA Sports Desk Officers Workshop March 8th-9th 2016

	Name	LGEA
1	Ibrahim Muho	Kaugama
2	Ibrahim Ado	Hadejia
3	Gaba Sule	KiKasamma
4	Abdulkadir Baffa	MiMadiri
5	Sale A. Galadimayya	Taura
6	Abubakar Umar	Jahcin
7	Idris Kahi	Miga
8	Yaro Muho	Kihausa
9	Usman A Maidala	Birniwa
10	Muhammed Sambo	Guri
11	Magaji Abdullahi	Auyo
12	Tajo Datti	Kiyakia
13	Auwala Uba	Dutse
14	Moha Shauibu	Suletk
15	Balarabe Sani	Gwiwa
16	Sule Ahmed	Kazaure
17	Hassan Tafida	Yawkwasih
18	Surajo Sani Yaro	Babura
19	Abdu Adamu	Roni
20	Tasiu Rabi	Ringim
21	Musa Ali Usman	Buji
22	Aliyu Musa	SUBEB
23	Ahmed Inuwa	Gwaram
24	Nasiru Sabo	Bikudu
25	Aliyu Rawai	Maigatari
26	Kamilu Mohd Yahaya	Gumel
	Facilitators	
	Hajara Suleiman	A&E Specialist Consultant
	Sarah Forde	Girls' Sports Consultant

Playing to Stay in School – Girls Sports Initiative in schools in Jigawa State

Reporting Template for LGEA Sports Desk Officers

Name of LGEA Sports Desk Officer:

State:	Name of head teacher:
LGEA:	Name of game teacher:
Name of school:	Name of games prefect:
Does your school have a qualified PHE teacher?	
Does your school have a space for playing sports?	
Does your school have a first aid kit?	
What sports equipment do you have in the school?	
Do girls participate in sports in your school?	
Which sports for girls have taken place in your school?	
How many girls play sports in your school?	Total number:
Which classes have the girls who participate in sports?	P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, JSS1, JSS2, JSS3 Please select
How often do the girls play sports?	Weekly, Bi weekly, Monthly Please select
Does your school organise or participate in any sports competitions for girls? Please give examples	
What are the challenges of girls' sports in your school?	
What are the sporting needs of girls in your school?	

DO you have any recommendations to improve girls' sports in your school?

.....

Signed

.....Games MasterLGEA Sports Officer

Date:

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